

## SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the Title to read as follows:

### A PIXEL DRIVE CIRCUIT FOR AN IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS

Please change the paragraph bridging Pages 10 and 11 to read as follows:

According to still another aspect, there is provided an image pickup apparatus comprising a plurality of pixels each including a photoelectric conversion unit, a semiconductor area to which a signal from the photoelectric conversion unit is transferred, a transfer switch adapted to transfer the signal from the photoelectric conversion unit to the semiconductor area, and a read unit for reading out the signal from the semiconductor area, and a drive circuit adapted to output a signal for controlling the transfer switch so that a fall speed  $V_{off}$  for changing the transfer switch from an ON state to an OFF state has a relation  $10 \text{ V/sec} > V_{off} > 10 \text{ V}/\mu\text{sec} > V_{off}$ .

Please change the paragraph bridging Pages 12 and 13 to read as follows:

According to still another aspect, there is provided a drive method for an image pickup apparatus including a plurality of pixels each including a photoelectric conversion unit, a semiconductor area to which a signal from the photoelectric conversion unit is transferred, a transfer switch adapted to transfer the signal from the photoelectric conversion unit to the semiconductor area, and a read unit adapted to read out the signal from the semiconductor area, comprising:

an output step of outputting a signal for controlling the transfer switch so that a fall speed  $V_{off}$  for changing the transfer switch from an ON state to an OFF state has a relation  ~~$10 \text{ V/sec} > V_{off}$~~   
 $10 \text{ V}/\mu\text{sec} > V_{off}$ .